

Patent Public Advisory Committee Meeting

Patent End-To-End (PE2E)



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Patents End-to-End (PE2E)

- A new electronic Patents end-to-end (PE2E) system is required to meet USPTO's goals.
- PE2E moves USPTO from an image-based system to a text-based system, allowing flexible utilization of information from application filing to patent issuance.
- Optimizes patent quality and timeliness:
 - Reduce the average time to first office action on the merits for patent applications to 10 months
 - Reduce the average total pendency to 20 months
 - Improve the quality of patent examination process
 - Improve and enhance patent appeal and post-grant processes



PE2E Goals

- Improve quality of IT tools for applicants and examiners
 - Integrated, highly usable applications
 - Optimized to eliminate repetitive tasks
 - Text-based (XML) filing and examination
 - Flexible, scalable, leverages industry-leading, modern technology
 - Highly reliable and highly available



Recent PE2E Accomplishments

- **Patent Examiner Tools and Infrastructure:** Viewing tool for patent documents and Examiner docket
 - Deployed in April 2013: Pilot enhancement release to 39 Patent Corps Examiners representing all Patents Technology Centers
- **PE2E Office Action:** Authoring tool for official Examiner correspondence
 - Deployed in April 2013: Tool to handle Abandonment Office Action and its accompanying workflow
- **Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC):** Harmonized patent classification schema and collaboration tools between EPO & USPTO
 - Deployed in June 2013: Enhancements to conflict resolution engine
 - Deployed in October 2013: Part 1 of the Miscellaneous Classification Changes/Classification Allocation Tool; allows Examiners to update classification allocations for patent documents



Recent PE2E Accomplishments

- **Patent Application Text Initiative (PATI):** conversion of patent applications (claims, spec, and abstract) from images to XML4IP
 - Deployed in July 2013: Infrastructure to make converted applications available to all Patent Corps Examiners within hours of receipt
 - All patent applications (claims, spec, abstract) now being converted to XML4IP in near real-time and available to Examiners in PE2E and legacy tools
 - ~11M pages converted in near real-time, in addition to ~80M pages already available through previous batch conversions



Recent PE2E Accomplishments

- **Global Patent Search Network (GPSN):** Publically available site for searching foreign patents in original language and English machine translations, with modern features including filters and facets
 - Deployed in September 2013: All published patents (1985 through 2012) issued by the Chinese State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO)
- **One Portal Dossier (OPD):** promotes work-sharing among the IP5 Offices (USPTO, EPO, JPO, KIPO, and SIPO) by providing examiners access to applications that are members of the same patent family
 - Deployed in July 2013: secure web services to transmit USPTO patent data to all IP5 Offices



Resumed PE2E Projects

- Restarted the following previously suspended projects:
 - PE2E Office Action - Phase 2
 - Exploring Search Technologies - Phase 2
 - IFW Image and Legacy Services Retirement
 - Conversion of Existing Office Actions to XML
- Applicant to Office Interface (Text2PTO) - Phase 2 will begin in FY14



Challenges for Resuming Projects

- 6 month calendar delay due to suspension of projects
- Restarting projects and procurements (60 to 90 days)
 - Must be phased to accommodate PTO capacity
 - Working to get a head start on some projects
- Re-hiring to replace contract staff (6 to 12 months)
 - Touches every aspect of the project
 - Programmers and architects
 - Project managers and technical leads
 - Support areas; e.g., database support and testing
 - Will take 9 to 18 months to achieve previous velocity
 - Not feasible to hire contractors all at once
 - New contractors will take months to onboard, replacing people with much as 18 months experience with these projects



PE2E Key Releases

- **Examination Tools & Infrastructure**
 - Quarterly releases of incremental functionality to pilot audience
 - Increase number of users in pilot audience during FY14
 - FY15 Q1 release to Patent Examination Corps: Viewing tool for patent documents and Examiner docket
- **PE2E Office Action**
 - FY15 Q1 prototype of Office Action authoring tool
 - FY16 Q1 release to patent Examination Corps: Office Action authoring tool

Subsequent releases of both PE2E Office Action and Examination Tools & Infrastructure will include automated workflow and outlying functionality to retire legacy examination tools.



PE2E Key Releases (continued)

- **Cooperative Patent Classification (CPC)**
 - Q2 FY14 Classification Allocation Tool (CAT) Part 2 – Tool to support quality assurance process, including raised hand flags between the EPO and USPTO
 - Q2 FY14 Combination sets – Enhance computer search system data processing to improve CPC Combination set search capabilities for Patent Examiners
- **Patent Application Text Initiative (PATI), Examiner Search and Text2PTO**
 - Working to validate key milestone and dates



Questions and Comments?

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